

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 8, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

## **SENATE BILL**

**No. 1451**

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**Introduced by Senator Kehoe**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Leno)

February 23, 2006

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An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, as amended, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness: *disabled community*.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to ensure representation of the ~~disability~~ *disabled* community on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System Specialist Committees, as specified. The bill would require the Director of Emergency Services to report to the Legislature, not later than January 1, 2009, recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures and other items, as specified, to prepare and disseminate sample brochures on those matters, and to make those brochures available in accessible formats, as specified. The bill would require the director and the State Fire Marshal's office to seek research funds to assist in the development of new technologies and

information systems that will assist in the evacuation of disabled persons, as specified. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that funds be ~~appropriated without regard to fiscal years~~ *used* from funds received from the federal Department of Homeland Security, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Recent emergencies, such as “9/11” and Hurricane Katrina,  
4 have underscored the need for government to have in place  
5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
6 accessible information.

7 (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that  
8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the  
10 unique needs of those with physical, sensory, and cognitive  
11 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures  
12 to address the needs of those with disabilities, in evacuating  
13 public and private facilities and private residences during an  
14 emergency or disaster.

15 (c) California has a system in place to maintain and improve  
16 all phases of emergency management, known as the Standardized  
17 Emergency Management System. In order to ensure that the  
18 needs of people with disabilities are met during emergency and  
19 disaster situations, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services  
20 shall ensure representation of the ~~disability~~ *disabled* community  
21 on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System  
22 Specialist Committees.

23 SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to  
24 read:

25 8588.15. (a) The Director of the Governor’s Office of  
26 Emergency Services shall appoint representatives of the disabled  
27 community to serve on the evacuation, sheltering,  
28 communication, recovery, and other pertinent Standardized  
29 Emergency Management System committees, including one  
30 representative to the Technical Working Group. Representatives

1 of the disabled community shall, to the extent practicable, be  
2 from the following groups:

- 3 (1) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- 4 (2) Persons with sensory or cognitive disabilities.
- 5 (3) Persons with physical disabilities.

6 (b) Within the Standardized Emergency Management System  
7 structure, the director shall ensure ~~that the needs of the disability,~~  
8 *to the extent practicable, that the needs of the disabled*  
9 community are met by ensuring all committee recommendations  
10 regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to  
11 emergencies include the needs of people with disabilities.

12 (c) The director shall produce a report containing  
13 recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures,  
14 and provision of accessible information on emergency  
15 evacuations regarding the needs of people with disabilities and  
16 submit it to the Legislature and appropriate state and local  
17 agencies by January 1, 2009. The recommendations shall include,  
18 but not be limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions,  
19 relevant research or technology design, and training and exercise  
20 considerations.

21 (d) The director shall prepare and disseminate sample  
22 brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning,  
23 and procedures relating to emergency evacuations that include  
24 the needs of the ~~disability~~ *disabled* community, and shall work  
25 with nongovernmental associations and entities to make them  
26 available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to  
27 Braille, large print, and electronic media.

28 (e) The director and the State Fire Marshal's office shall seek  
29 research funding to assist in the development of new  
30 technologies and information systems that will assist in the  
31 evacuation of the groups designated in subdivision (a) during  
32 emergency and disaster situations.

33 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature for the purpose of  
34 implementing this section and to the extent permitted by federal  
35 law, ~~that additional legislation be enacted so that funds shall be~~  
36 ~~appropriated without regard to fiscal years from the Federal law,~~  
37 *that funds may be used from the Federal Trust Fund from funds*

- 1 received from the federal Department of Homeland Security for
- 2 implementation of homeland security programs.

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